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Agenda item 149 (b)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katja Pehrman (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 51st, 52nd, 64th and 66th meetings, on 22 and 23 May and 27 and 30 June 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/60/SR.51, 52, 64 and 66).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/629 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/642 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/812 and Corr.1).



II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42

4. At the 64th meeting, on 27 June, the representative of Nigeria informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations on this item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/60/L.42).

6. At the 66th meeting, on 30 June, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, orally revised draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, in line with the agreement reached during informal consultations that the Committee would make reference in each of the financing resolutions to the resolution on cross-cutting issues, as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "resolution 59/296 of 22 June 2005" were replaced by the words "resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006";

(b) Operative paragraph 12, which read:

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of relevant provisions of its resolution 59/296",

was replaced by:

"12. *Reaffirms* its resolution 59/296 and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/266".

7. At the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 by a recorded vote of 93 to 5, with 49 abstentions. The voting was as follows:¹

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa,

¹ The delegation of Guyana subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

9. Also at the 66th meeting, a recorded vote was requested on draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 as a whole, as orally revised.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 as a whole, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 144 to 3 with 1 abstention (see para. 12). The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe.

² The delegation of Viet Nam subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Against:

Israel, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia.

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Israel, Canada, the United States of America, Australia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and New Zealand.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1655 (2006) of 31 January 2006,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 59/307 of 22 June 2005,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004 and 59/307,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the Force as at 30 April 2006, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 71 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

¹ A/60/629 and Corr.1 and A/60/642 and Corr.1.

² A/60/812 and Corr.1.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;
4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307 and 59/307;
5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307 and 59/307;
6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;
7. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;
8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;
9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;
10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;
11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;
12. *Reaffirms* its resolution 59/296 and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/266;
13. *Notes with great concern* the reported fuel and rations fraud as reported by the Advisory Committee,³ which was revealed in an investigation undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services at the request of the mission;
14. *Recognizes* that the investigation is still ongoing, and requests the Secretary-General to report in the next budget submission on the status of recovery of the financial loss, if any, to the mission;
15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;
16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the

² See *ibid.*, para. 30.

Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of its resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of its resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of its resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of its resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of its resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of its resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of its resolution 58/307 and paragraph 13 of its resolution 59/307, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;⁴

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

19. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 97,579,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, inclusive of 93,526,200 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 348,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 705,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

20. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 8,131,633 dollars for the period from 1 to 31 July 2006, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2006, as set out in its resolution 58/1 B of 23 December 2003;

21. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 414,025 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 378,200 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 31,383 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 4,442 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

22. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 89,447,967 dollars for the period from 1 August 2006 to 30 June 2007 at a monthly rate of 8,131,633 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2006, as set out in its resolution 58/1 B, and for 2007,⁵ subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

⁴ A/60/629 and Corr.1.

⁵ To be adopted by the General Assembly.

23. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 22 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,554,275 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 4,160,200 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 345,217 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 48,858 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

24. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 20 and 22 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 8,814,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 58/256, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2005, as set out in its resolution 58/1 B;

25. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 8,814,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 24 above;

26. *Also decides* that the decrease of 521,300 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 8,814,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 24 and 25 above;

27. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force;

29. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".